

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 09995 240756Z

12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /131 W

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R 240553Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3886

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USINT BAGHDAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 9995

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND ENRG ETRN LE SY

SUBJ: IPC TAKEOVER: GOL NAMES NEGOTIATORS, ARBITRATOR

REF: BEIRUT A-99 AND A-100 APRIL 27

SUMMARY: GOL AUG 22 ANNOUNCED NAMING OF ARBITRATOR AND NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE TO HANDLE MARCH 5 IPC LEBANON TAKEOVER BUT IT IS NOT CERTAIN IF SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WILL ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IPC SYRIA NATIONALIZATION CASE STILL DORMANT. END SUMMARY.

1. GOL ON AUGUST 22 ANNOUNCED FIRST STEPS TOWARD SETTLING MARCH 5 IPC TAKEOVER, NAMING BOTH AN ARBITRATOR AND AN EIGHT-MAN NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE HEADED BY MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND OF INDUSTRY/PETROLEUM. MINISTERS HAVE ASKED GOL APPROVAL FOR OPENING NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ACCORDING TO GOL ANNOUNCEMENT.

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2. IPC BEIRUT NOT YET FORMALLY NOTIFIED AND DOES NOT RPT

NOT EXPECT EARLY SUBSTANTIVE TALKS, SUSPECTING THAT GOL
WILL WISH TO SETTLE MEDRECO/TAPLINE ISSUE (BEIRUT 9616
AND EARLIER, NOTAL) BEFORE SETTLING WITH IPC.

3. IPC ON JUNE 4 REFERRED CASE TO ARBITRATION UNDER ARTICLE
XXV OF 1931 IPC CONVENTION BUT AT SAME TIME INFORMED GOL
THAT IT DESIRES SIMULTANEOUS ARBITRATION AND NEGOTIATION
(OBVIOUSLY USING ARBITRATION TO KEEP GOL NEGOTIATING
SERIOUSLY). GOL, BELEAGUERED IN JUNE AND JULY BY CABINET
CRISIS, SYRIAN BORDER CLOSURE, MEDRECO AND LESSER CRISES,
DID NOT RESPOND FORMALLY, BRINGING, ON JULY 30, IPC
NOTIFICATION THAT ITS ARBITRATOR NAMED AND THAT IN FAILURE
OF GOL NAME ITS ARBITRATOR IPC COULD REQUEST ICJ RPT ICJ
NOMINATE GOL ARBITRATOR. GOL POSITION, ALREADY PROVIDED
IPC INFORMALLY AND CONTAINED AUG 22 ANNOUNCEMENT, IS
THAT 1931 CONVENTION CALLS FOR ARBITRATION ONLY AFTER
NEGOTIATIONS FAIL, BUT GOL MAY HAVE NAMED ARBITRATOR TO
DEMONSTRATE GOOD FAITH.

4. IPC SYRIA STATUS: FEW DAYS PRIOR THIS ANNOUNCEMENT
EMBOFF ASKED IPC BEIRUT IF COMPANY HAD ANY PLANS CONCERNING
ITS NATIONALIZED ASSETS IN SYRIA. IPC OFFICIAL SAID HE
KNEW OF NO PLANS TO APPROACH SYRIA, NOTING (IN ADDITION
REASONS GIVEN A-100) THAT SYRIA PROBABLY WOULD RAISE ISSUES
OF LONG-REDUNDANT WORKERS ON IPC PAYROLL AT TIME OF
NATIONALIZATION AND MIGHT ALSO RAISE NUMEROUS PETTY COURT
CASES LEFT BEHIND BY IPC.

COMMENT: WITH MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS SETTLED OR CONTAINED,
GOL APPARENTLY PREPARED CONSIDER IPC CASE BUT COMPANY NOT
PRESSING HARD. IPC OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF HE NOT CERTAIN
IPC HAS NEGOTIATING POSITION AS YET.
BUFFUM

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